

MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., NOVEMBER 18, 1929.

The fourth meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1930 was held in its office in the Interior Department Building on Monday, November 18, 1929.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Garfield,
Mr. Vitale,
Mr. Cross,
Mr. Winter,
Mr. Weinman,

also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary and
Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the Meeting held October 17 and 18, 1929, were approved.
2. LEIF ERICSSON STATUE: In accordance with arrangements made at the meeting on October 17th for a sculptural competition, by the submission of photographs from a limited number of sculptors, the secretary reported that photographs were received from:

Mr. Jennewein,
Mr. Aitken,
Mr. Keck,
Mr. Calder,

Mr. Polasek,
Mr. Holm,
Mr. Piccirilli.

also, with the approval of Mr. Weinman, photographs from: Mr. Arthur Lee, Mr. Olaf Bjorkman, and Mr. Oskar Hansen, which were considered with the others by the Commission.

The following letter was received from Mr. A. Stirling Calder, which was read at the meeting, endorsing this mode of competition heartily:

October 29, 1929.

"Gentlemen:

I accept with pleasure your invitation to participate in the limited competition for a statue of Leif Ericsson for Iceland.

This is indeed a very stirring project, one to which I respond

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The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Gaffield,
Mr. Vitale,
Mr. Gross,
Mr. Winter,
Mr. Weinman.

Also Mr. H. H. Casper, Secretary and

Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The Minutes of the

Meeting held October 17 and 18, 1939, were approved.

2. THE BRIGGS STATUE: In accordance with arrangements made at the

meeting on October 17th for a sculptural competition, by the submission of

photographs from a limited number of sculptors, the secretary reported

that photographs were received from:

Mr. Johnson,
Mr. Allen,
Mr. Beck,
Mr. Calder,
Mr. Kossak,
Mr. Holm,
Mr. Piccirilli.

also, with the approval of Mr. Weinman,
photographs from Mr. Arthur Lee, Mr. Orla Johnson, and Mr. Carter Hansen,
which were considered with the others by the Commission.

The following letter was received from Mr. A. Stirling Calder, which

was read at the meeting, endorsing this mode of competition heartily:

October 22, 1939.

Gentlemen:

I accept with pleasure your invitation to participate in the
limited competition for a statue of Earl Jackson for Iceland.
This is indeed a very stirring project, one to which I respond

with enthusiasm aroused by the romantic subject. I would also like to say that the method of conducting the competition, resulting in an award based on the judgement of the Commission of photographs of the competitors' works, is eminently sensible and has my hearty support.

I shall send the required photographs by or before the limit of time mentioned, November 18th, and await the award decision with more interest than I have felt for any similar project.

Faithfully yours,

A. Stirling Calder."

The Commission inspected the photographs carefully. Attention was called to the importance of the work, since the statue is not only to be a credit to the art of sculpture of the United States, but also will be in competition with the work of a great sculptor in Iceland--Einar Jonsson, photographs of whose work were shown at the meeting.

The Commission considered the capabilities of the various sculptors who submitted photographs. Mr. Holm's work was regarded rather weak. Mr. Lee's work appeared interesting, but did not give assurance that he could produce a monument of this character. Mr. Keck's work was known to the Commission, and he was carefully considered for award; it was felt Mr. Keck would produce a good monument, but that it might be perhaps too formal. Mr. Calder's work was then considered carefully. Mr. Weinman said he is a sculptor of established reputation and is very capable, also he has imagination; that he is interested in this subject and would devote study to producing a good statue is indicated in the letter from him. If his sketches should be somewhat too imaginative, the Commission could keep this matter in control when advising as to the model.

The Commission thereupon, after again inspecting the photographs submitted by Mr. Calder, decided unanimously to recommend him to the Department of State as the sculptor for the Leif Ericsson statue (Exhibit A).

3. FIRE ENGINE HOUSE, CONNECTICUT AVENUE AND ELLICOTT STREET: Mr. A.L.Harris, Municipal Architect, submitted the question of design for a fire engine house

with enthusiasm aroused by the romantic subject. I would also like to say that the method of conducting the competition, resulting in an award based on the judgment of the Commission of Photographs of the competitors' works, is eminently sensible and has my hearty support.

I shall send the required photograph by or before the limit of time mentioned, November 18th, and await the award decision with more interest than I have felt for any similar project.

Faithfully yours,
A. Hilding Gahler."

The Commission inspected the photographs carefully. Attention was called to the importance of the work, since the statue is not only to be a credit to the art of sculpture of the United States, but also will be in competition with the work of a great sculptor in Iceland--Bjorn Jonsson. Photographs of whose work were shown at the meeting.

The Commission considered the capabilities of the various sculptors who submitted photographs. Mr. Holm's work was regarded rather weak. Mr. Lee's work appeared interesting, but did not give assurance that he could produce a monument of this character. Mr. Keck's work was known to the Commission, and he was carefully considered for award; it was felt Mr. Keck would produce a good monument, but that it might be perhaps too formal. Mr. Gahler's work was then considered carefully. Mr. Weimer said he is a sculptor of established reputation and is very capable, also he has imagination; that he is interested in this subject and would devote study to producing a good statue is indicated in the letter from him. If his sketches should be somewhat too imaginative, the Commission could keep this matter in control when advising as to the model. The Commission thereupon, after again inspecting the photographs submitted by Mr. Gahler, decided unanimously to recommend him to the Department of State as the sculptor for the Jafn Eriksson statue (Exhibit A).

3. THE ENGINE HOUSE, COMMONWEALTH AVENUE AND THURGOOD STREET, Mr. A. L. Harris, Municipal Architect, submitted the question of design for a fire engine house

to be erected on Connecticut Avenue, some distance beyond the Bureau of Standards, at Ellicott Street, where St. Paul's Lutheran Church is to be built, a large structure to cost \$700,000 and to be Gothic in design; the church officials were asking that the fire engine house be in harmony with it.

The Commission noted the site and regarded it unreasonable to expect a fire engine house to be Gothic in design. The Commission called attention to the fact that for several years Mr. Harris has consistently adhered to a type of design representing the architecture of the early days of the Republic in Washington (the Georgian) for school buildings, fire engine houses, and police stations, which should be applied in this instance.

5. **SOLDIER'S MEDAL:** Under date of November 1, 1929, the following letter was received from Secretary of War Good resubmitting models and designs for the Soldier's Medal, as follows:

"Further reference is made to my letter of March 27, 1929, and your reply thereto of April 29, 1929, relative to the design for the Soldier's Medal authorized by the Act of Congress approved July 2, 1926.

In accordance with the terms of Executive Order No. 3524, of July 29, 1921, I am sending you herewith sixteen inclosures, including paintings of proposed designs for the medal, and three plaster models for the design illustrated on inclosures one (1) and two (2), of the letter of October 25, 1929, from the Acting Quarter-Master General, which letter is also inclosed.

It is requested that the accompanying letter and its exhibits be returned to this Department with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as to the merits of each of the proposed designs and an indication as to which particular design is best adapted to the purpose.

Upon receipt of your reply suitable plaster casts will be made for final approbation."

Mr. Weinman inspected the models and designs and noted that while an attempt has been made to carry out the suggestions of the Commission contained in the letter of April 29, 1929, the work had not been done satisfactorily. Mr. Weinman therefore disapproved them, and the Commission concurred in the matter.

to be erected on Connecticut Avenue, some distance beyond the Bureau of Standards, at Elliott Street, where St. Paul's Lutheran Church is to be built, a large structure to cost \$750,000 and to be Gothic in design; the church officials were asking that the line engine house be in harmony with it.

The Commission noted the site and regarded it unreasonable to expect a line engine house to be Gothic in design. The Commission called attention to the fact that for several years Mr. Harris has consistently adhered to a type of design representing the architecture of the early days of the Republic in Washington (the Georgian) for school buildings, fire engine houses, and police stations, which should be applied in this instance.

2. GOLDIER'S MEDAL: Under date of November 1, 1929, the following

letter was received from Secretary of War Good transmitting medals and

designs for the Goldier's Medal, as follows:

"Further reference is made to my letter of March 27, 1929, and your reply thereto of April 29, 1929, relative to the design for the Goldier's Medal authorized by the Act of Congress approved July 2, 1906.

In accordance with the terms of Executive Order No. 2524, of July 29, 1921, I am sending you herewith sixteen inclosures, including paintings of proposed designs for the medal, and three plaster models for the design illustrated on inclosure (1) and two (2), of the letter of October 23, 1929, from the Acting Quarter-Master General, which letter is also inclosed.

It is requested that the accompanying letter and its exhibits be returned to this Department with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts as to the merits of each of the proposed designs and an indication as to which particular design is best adapted to the purpose.

Upon receipt of your reply suitable plaster casts will be made for final approbation."

Mr. Weinman inspected the models and designs and noted that while an

attempt has been made to carry out the suggestions of the Commission contained

in the letter of April 29, 1929, the work had not been done satisfactorily.

Mr. Weinman therefore disapproved them, and the Commission concurred in the

matter.

The Commission recommended that, with a view to securing a good design, the Quartermaster General follow the suggestion made in the indicated in a letter letter of April 29th, /from the Chief of Staff, dated April 28, 1928, as follows:

"After further conference on the subject of the design for the soldier's medal it has been decided that the Quartermaster General will request the president of the National Sculpture Society to recommend to him sculptors from among whom one could be selected by the Secretary of War to make a soldier's medal.

Upon the completion of this design it will be submitted to the Fine Arts Commission for recommendation."

A report was made to the Secretary of War accordingly (Exhibit B).

6. MERIDIAN HILL PARK, GEOLOGICAL STRATA: Under date of November 7, 1929, the following Memorandum was received from Colonel Grant, submitting a sketch and copy of a report (Exhibit C) as to the recommendation of the Geological Survey and of Dr. Merriam, President of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, to preserve a cross-section of the bluff of Meridian Hill Park, because of its geological interest:

"Would you give me your views on the proposal of Dr. Merriam inclosed herewith? I am just starting for New York, and have not time to submit this more formally. Major Mehaffey's Memorandum sufficiently shows that the suggestion cannot structurally be carried out as suggested."

The Commission brought the matter to the particular attention of Mr. Vitale, who said that such a proposition as this could have been considered years ago when plans for Meridian Hill Park were being prepared, but now that work on the Grand Terrace is being carried out; the upper garden is complete for park use, and the lower garden very nearly so, it would be inadvisable to change the plans. If the suggestion were adopted now it could not be done in such a way as to be of educational value to the public. Mr. Vitale therefore disapproved the suggestion, and the Commission concurred in the matter (Exhibit C-1)

The Commission recommended that, with a view to securing a good

design, the Quartermaster General follow the suggestion made in the

letter of April 23rd, from the Chief of Staff, dated April 23, 1932,
indicated in a letter

as follows:

"After further conference on the subject of the design for
the soldier's medal it has been decided that the Quartermaster
General will request the President of the National Geographic
Society to recommend to him sculptors from among whom one could
be selected by the Secretary of War to make a soldier's medal.
Upon the completion of this design it will be submitted to
the Fine Arts Commission for recommendation."

A report was made to the Secretary of War accordingly (Exhibit B).

MEXICAN HILL PARK, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY: Under date of November 7,

1932, the following memorandum was received from Colonel Grant, submitting

a sketch and copy of a report (Exhibit C) as to the recommendation of the

Geological Survey and of Dr. Merriam, President of the Carnegie Institution

of Washington, to preserve a cross-section of the bluff of Mexican Hill Park,

because of its geological interest:

"Would you give me your views on the proposal of Dr. Merriam
inclosed herewith? I am just starting for New York, and have not
time to submit this more formally. Major Mahaffey's Memorandum
sufficiently shows that the suggestion cannot attractively be
carried out as suggested."

The Commission brought the matter to the particular attention of

Mr. Vicks, who said that such a proposition as this could have been considered

years ago when plans for Mexican Hill Park were being prepared, but now that

work on the Grand Terrace is being carried out; the upper garden is complete

for park use, and the lower garden very nearly so, it would be inadvisable to

change the plans. If the suggestion were adopted now it could not be done

in such a way as to be of educational value to the public. Mr. Vicks therefore

disapproved the suggestion, and the Commission concurred in the matter (Exhibit C-1)

7. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE: Colonel Grant brought to the attention of the Commission a plan for a bridge to connect the north end of Columbia Island with the Virginia shore, at the point where it is to connect with the Lee Highway. Major Mehaffey said that Mr. Kendall proposed to make this bridge 425 feet long and have it built like the Boundary Channel Bridge with granite facing, but that the cost is prohibitive and in view of the location of the proposed bridge, 1200 feet north of the main line of the Arlington Memorial Bridge, the expense of a fine bridge does not seem warranted. Thereupon a concrete bridge was suggested, but the design is not satisfactory; it calls for a bridge 375 feet long and 50 feet wide. Major Mehaffey said costs are about \$1.00 for stone to \$1.00 for construction.

The Commission considered the matter carefully, and decided that a simple bridge built of ^{with stone trimming} brick/at this location would fully answer the purpose. It was agreed that Mr. Cross and Mr. Vitale should speak to Mr. Kendall about this matter. Mr. Moore called attention to the bridge built of brick by McKim, Mead and White at Cambridge, and Col. Grant said he had hoped they would produce a fine design for this bridge. A report recommending that the bridge be built of brick was sent to the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission (Exhibit D).

8. THE MALL: Mr. Vitale said he had spent the past two days in Washington with Mr. Olmsted and Mr. Eliot studying the Mall Plan, and that special attention was given to the scheme of development,--first as suggested by the Senate Park Commission of 1901; secondly, carrying out the 1901 Plan ~~submitted~~ with modifications as suggested by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Mr. Vitale submitted a report, which was read and agreed to (Exhibit E).

Especial attention was given to that part of the Mall between 12th and 14th Street and the grading needed in front of the new Department of Agriculture

WASHINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE: Colonel Grant brought to the attention of

the Commission a plan for a bridge to connect the north end of Columbia Island with the Virginia shore, at the point where it is to connect with the Lee Highway.

Major Mahaffey said that Mr. Kendall proposed to make this bridge 420 feet long and have it built like the Boundary Channel Bridge with granite facing, but that the cost is prohibitive and in view of the location of the proposed bridge, 1200 feet north of the main line of the Arlington Memorial Bridge, the expense of a fine bridge does not seem warranted. Thereupon a concrete bridge was suggested, but the design is not satisfactory; it calls for a bridge 275 feet long and 30 feet wide. Major Mahaffey said costs are about \$1.00 for stone to \$1.00 for construction.

The Commission considered the matter carefully, and decided that a simple bridge built of brick at this location would fully answer the purpose. It was agreed that Mr. Gross and Mr. Vicks should speak to Mr. Kendall about this matter. Mr. Moore called attention to the bridge built of brick by Lockim, Head and White at Cambridge, and Col. Grant said he had hoped they would produce a fine design for this bridge. A report recommending that the bridge be built of brick was sent to the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission (Exhibit D).

8. THE MALL: Mr. Vicks said he had spent the past two days in Washington with Mr. Vickers and Mr. Elliot studying the Mall Plan, and that special attention was given to the scheme of development, first as suggested by the Senate Park Commission of 1901; secondly, carrying out the 1901 Plan with modifications as suggested by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Mr. Vicks submitted a report, which was read and agreed to (Exhibit E).

Special attention was given to that part of the Mall between 13th and 14th Street and the grading needed in front of the new Department of Agriculture

Building, which is about 8 feet below grade. Col. Grant was urged to build at least one roadway from the Capitol to the Washington Monument, and he said he would make an effort to do this; No money has been appropriated for development of the Mall, although he hopes to use funds saved on other projects of park development.

The Mall Plan provides for four roadways with four rows of trees from the Capitol to the Washington Monument, with a grass panel in the center; there are also to be sidewalks. The National Capital Park and Planning Commission believes ultimately traffic conditions will require that 12th and 14th Street as also 15th Street be depressed, with bridges over them; but that for the present a tentative scheme of grading can be applied. It was agreed that Ninth Street should go through the Mall, and that the old American History Building, on the south side of the Mall, should be removed.

The Commission gave consideration to the Washington Monument Garden Plan. Mr. Partridge's sketches for a revised study of the 1901 Plan had received the attention of the Commission, and the question was raised whether Congress could be interested in the project. Mr. Moore said he thought Senator Fess could be persuaded to take up the matter in connection with plans for the George Washington Bicentennial in 1932. Representative Tinkham has a bill pending in Congress, H.R.15, for the treatment of the Washington Monument Grounds. Colonel Grant distributed a few booklets on the subject. It was pointed out that the 1901 Plan for the Washington Monument Gardens was simply a suggestion, but one that fits into the scheme for the central composition of the Washington Plan if the authorities can be persuaded to accept it. Col. Grant desires the Monument Grounds kept for assembly purposes on patriotic occasions and other celebrations. While the engineering project is feasible, he said no attempt has been made to give a definite report thereon.

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The Mall plan provides for four roadways with four rows of trees from the Capitol to the Washington Monument, with a grass panel in the center; there are also to be sidewalks. The National Capital Park and Planning Commission believes ultimately traffic conditions will require that 18th and 14th Street as also 15th Street be depressed, with bridges over them; but that for the present a tentative scheme of grading can be applied. It was agreed that Ninth Street should go through the Mall, and that the old American History Building, on the south side of the Mall, should be removed.

The Commission gave consideration to the Washington Monument Garden Plan. Mr. Partridge's sketch for a revised study of the 1901 Plan had received the attention of the Commission, and the question was raised whether Congress could be interested in the project. Mr. Moore said he thought Senator Tamm could be persuaded to take up the matter in connection with plans for the George Washington Bicentennial in 1932. Representative Winthrop has a bill pending in Congress, H.R. 15, for the treatment of the Washington Monument grounds. Colonel Grant distributed a few booklets on the subject. It was pointed out that the 1901 Plan for the Washington Monument Gardens was simply a suggestion, but one that fits into the scheme for the central composition of the Washington Plan if the authorities can be persuaded to accept it. Col. Grant desires the Monument grounds kept for assembly purposes on patriotic occasions and other celebrations. While the engineering project is feasible, he said no attempt has been made to give a definite report thereon.

9. CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS. Mr. Eliot invited the Commission to attend the convention of the American Society of Landscape Architects, to be held in Washington from about January 15 to 18, 1930. He said it was planned in particular to present the Plan of Washington from the standpoint of park and city planning, though some of the speakers will be other than landscape architects; among them an engineer will speak on the reclamation projects of the Potomac. Mr. Vitale is to speak on the subject of the Washington Monument Gardens. The program is thus contrasted with that of the convention of the American Institute of Architects, held in April of this year, when Washington and its Plan of Development was presented from the standpoint of the architect. Mr. Eliot also invited the Commission to attend their Banquet at this convention.

The Commission accepted Mr. Eliot's invitation, and expressed their interest in the coming convention. It was agreed also by the Commission to hold their January meeting in Washington, during the period of the convention, January 16 and 17, 1930.

10. DOUBLE LIGHT LAMP STANDARDS IN FRONT OF THE UNION STATION: By letter dated November 4, 1929, Col. Grant requested the advice of the Commission as to installing the approved type of double light lamp standards in front of the Union Station, as follows:

"It is now proposed to substitute four (4) new lights of the double lamp variety, approved for streets by your Commission, in lieu of the eight (8) low lights along the north side of the Columbus Fountain Plaza. The city will probably make a similar substitution in the small lights under its jurisdiction.

As the design of the light posts in question has already been approved by your Commission, I assume that there can be no objection on its part to our substituting these new more powerful and higher lights for double the number of small ones. Not only will better

COMMISSION ON THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LAMP STANDARDS, Mr. Elliot

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Landscape Architects, to be held in Washington from about January 15 to 18,
1930. He said it was planned in particular to present the Plan of Washington
from the standpoint of park and city planning, though some of the speakers
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hold their January meeting in Washington, during the period of the convention,
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10. DOUBLE LIGHT LAMP STANDARDS IN FRONT OF THE UNION STATION: By letter
dated November 4, 1929, Col. Grant requested the advice of the Commission as
to installing the approved type of double light lamp standards in front of
the Union Station, as follows:

"It is now proposed to substitute four (4) new lights of the
double lamp variety, approved for streets by your Commission, in
line of the eight (8) low lights along the north side of the Columbus
Mountain Plaza. The city will probably make a similar substitution
in the small lights under its jurisdiction.
As the design of the light posts in question has already been
approved by your Commission, I assume that there can be no objection
on the part of our substituting these new more powerful and higher
lights for double the number of small ones. Not only will better

illumination result, but the effect of a line of posts back of the fountain will be diminished and the proportion between the light posts and the flag posts will be improved."

Mr. Moore said the matter was taken up with the firm of Graham, Anderson, Prebst and White (successors to D. H. Burnham & Co., architects, of the Union Station), who approved the suggestion by telegram dated November 16, 1929, as follows:

"Your wire. We have no objection to placing large double lamp standards in front of Union Station, providing of course Union Station Company are consulted and approve.

Howard J. White."

The Commission concurred in this matter, and Col. Grant was informed accordingly (Exhibit F).

11. OIL TANKS AND WHARF, SUN OIL COMPANY: Under date of November 12, 1929, the following protest was received from Dr. J. N. Roberts, 927 Fifteenth Street, N.W., against the erection of oil tanks and wharf at Rosslyn, Virginia, about 400 yards north of the Key Bridge:

"I am in receipt of the following from the War Department:

'Application has been received by this office from the Sun Oil Company, Philadelphia, for a permit to construct a wharf located about 400 yards above the Key Bridge in the Potomac River and extending 205 feet outside of the high water shore line in accordance with drawing sent herewith. Advice is requested as to any possible objections to this construction from a navigable viewpoint. If no reply is received by November 14, 1929, it will be considered that you have no objections. (sgd) Brehon Somervell, Major, Corps of Engineers, District Engineer'.

In this connection I beg to state that some 57 adjoining and adjacent property owners, as well as every civic body in Arlington County have fought this unsightly project as a protection to the general welfare of the county at large; and to cooperate with the Park and Planning Commission of the National Capital. Therefore I most earnestly request the support of your Commission to maintain the aesthetic beauty of the Virginia shore in this section along with

illumination result, but the effect of a line of posts back of the fountain will be diminished and the proportion between the light posts and the flag posts will be improved."

Mr. Moore said the matter was taken up with the firm of Graham, Anderson, Probst and White (successors to T. H. Burham & Co., architects of the Union Station), who approved the suggestion by telegram dated November 16, 1922, as follows:

"Your wire. We have no objection to placing large double lamp standards in front of Union Station, providing of course Union Station Company are consulted and approve."
Howard J. White."

The Commission concurred in this matter, and Col. Grant was informed accordingly (Memorandum 7).

11. OLD TANKS AND WHARF, SUN OIL COMPANY: Under date of November 12, 1922,

the following protest was received from Mr. J. M. Roberts, 221 Fifteenth Street, N.W., against the erection of oil tanks and wharf at Rosslyn, Virginia, about 400 yards north of the Key Bridge:

"I am in receipt of the following from the War Department: 'Application has been received by this office from the Sun Oil Company, Philadelphia, for a permit to construct a wharf located about 400 yards above the Key Bridge in the Potomac River and extending 200 feet outside of the high water zone. Line in accordance with drawing sent herewith. Advice is requested as to any possible objections to this construction from a navigable viewpoint. If no reply is received by November 16, 1922, it will be considered that you have no objections.' (sgd) Breton Somervell, Major, Corps of Engineers, District Engineer."

In this connection I beg to state that some 57 adjoining and adjacent property owners, as well as every civic body in Arlington County have fought this unsightly project as a protection to the General Welfare of the county at large; and to cooperate with the Park and Planning Commission of the National Capital. Therefore I most earnestly request the support of your Commission to maintain the aesthetic beauty of the Virginia shore in this section along with

our Park and Planning Commission. I am enclosing a small picture of this section made from the Key Bridge with pen markings showing the proposed Oil Tanks which will stand some 30 feet high to look you in the face as you drive across this famous bridge."

Col. Grant said there is a plan of development under way for the construction of the Virginia Shore Parkway and improving the shores of the Potomac; this is included in Representative Cramton's Park and Parkway Bill, which passed the House of Representatives at the closing session of the 70th Congress and is expected to be reintroduced and passed this winter. Mr. Moore said a letter has been received from Representative Cramton on the subject, with copy of a protest which he had sent to Major Somervell against the erection of the oil tanks and wharf (Exhibit G)

The second reason for protesting against the erection of the wharf is because it would be built on Government owned land, since according to the original Plan of Washington, the United States owns to the high water mark on the Virginia side of the Potomac River.

Major Somervell has simply the question of navigation before him and from that point of view there might be no objection to the erection of the wharf, but it would be unsightly to allow the erection of the oil tanks, and it would greatly interfere with a plan of development under way for the improvement of conditions at Rosslyn, as an approach to the National Capital. Attention was called to the cooperation manifested by the Washington Gas Light Company in refusing to build on Analoatan Island, whereby such gas tanks would be an eye-sore to the National Capital, although the company needs additional gas tanks.

The Commission concurred in this matter, and disapproved the erection of the proposed oil tanks and wharf (Exhibit G-1).

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Col. Grant said there is a plan of development under way for the construction of the Virginia Shore Railway and improving the shores of the Potomac; this is included in Representative Grant's Tank and Railway Bill, which passed the House of Representatives at the closing session of the 70th Congress and is expected to be reintroduced and passed this winter. Mr. Moore said a letter has been received from Representative Grant on the subject, with copy of a protest which he had sent to Major Somervell against the

erection of the oil tanks and wharf (Exhibit C). The second reason for protesting against the erection of the wharf is because it would be built on Government owned land, since according to the original plan of Washington, the United States owns to the high water mark on the Virginia side of the Potomac River.

Major Somervell has simply the question of navigation before him and from that point of view there might be no objection to the erection of the wharf, but it would be unright to allow the erection of the oil tanks, and it would greatly interfere with a plan of development under way for the improvement of conditions at Rosslyn, as an approach to the National Capital. Attention was called to the cooperation manifested by the Washington Gas Light Company in refusing to build on Anacostan Island, whereby such gas tanks would be an eye-sore to the National Capital, although the company needs additional gas tanks.

The Commission concurred in this matter, and disapproved the erection of the proposed oil tanks and wharf (Exhibit G-1).

12. AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION BUILDING; Dr. E. F. Kelly, Secretary of the American Pharmaceutical Association, appeared before the Commission with request for advice as to their building project in the square along B Street, between 22d and 23d Streets, Northwest, saying they wished to know what is to be done with Upper Water Street, which extends (in plan) through their grounds.

Col. Grant said the National Capital Park and Planning Commission ~~has~~ considered the matter at the meeting held on November 15, 1929, and on the recommendation of Mr. Olmsted had adopted a suggestion to straighten Upper Water Street, so as to overcome objections of lot owners (Exhibit H).

The Commission, after consideration, called attention to the fact that there is authority for widening 23d Street from at least New York Avenue down to B Street, towards the Lincoln Memorial, as part of the approach to the Arlington Memorial Bridge, and that in the circumstances it seemed that Col. Grant could cooperate with the American Pharmaceutical Association in buying all the remaining part of the square, and devote certain portions of it to park or other building purposes. Col. Grant and Dr. Kelly agreed to this. Mr. Vitale called attention to the desirability of acquiring the entire square, in view of a suggestion that has come to the attention of Dr. Kelly that the construction of a planetarium on the north half of the square is contemplated; that such structures are regarded unsightly.

It was further agreed by the Commission that Col. Grant should draw up the necessary legislation for acquiring the remaining squares not owned by the Government in the triangle bounded by New York Avenue and B Street, and from 17th Street westward to the Potomac River (Exhibit I).

12. NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION BUILDING; Dr. W. F. Kelly,

Secretary of the American Anthropological Association, appeared before the

Commission with request for advice as to their building project in the

apartments along B Street, between 33d and 35d Streets, Northwest, saying they

wished to know what is to be done with Upper Water Street, which extends

(in plan) through their grounds.

Col. Grant said the National Capital Park and Planning Commission had

considered the matter at the meeting held on November 15, 1932, and on the

recommendation of Mr. Grant had adopted a suggestion to straighten

Upper Water Street, so as to overcome objections of lot owners (Exhibit H).

The Commission, after consideration, called attention to the fact

that there is authority for widening 33d Street from at least New York Avenue

down to B Street, towards the Lincoln Memorial, as part of the approach to the

Washington Memorial Bridge, and that in the circumstances it seemed that

Col. Grant could cooperate with the American Anthropological Association in

paying all the remaining part of the square, and devote certain portions of

it to park or other building purposes. Col. Grant and Dr. Kelly agreed to this.

Mr. Witte called attention to the desirability of acquiring the entire square,

in view of a suggestion that has come to the attention of Dr. Kelly that the

construction of a planetarium on the north half of the square is contemplated;

that such circumstances are regarded as highly.

It was further agreed by the Commission that Col. Grant should draw

up the necessary legislation for acquiring the remaining square not owned by

the Government in the triangle bounded by New York Avenue and B Street, and

from 17th Street westward to the Potomac River (Exhibit I).

13. HENRY CLAY STATUE: Mr. Weinman submitted the following letter received by him from Mr. Harold Sterner, architect, with revised plans for the treatment of the grounds of the Henry Clay Statue, involving another location in the same square:

November 16, 1929.

"I am sending you down prints of sketches I have made for the Clay Memorial. I have shown three slightly different schemes but all of them, as you will see, are for the location we decided upon together. Since they are all on the same center, each scheme necessitates the removing of two trees and the elimination of one of the diagonal paths but, on the whole, it seems to me that this location for the statue requires very little new landscaping.

The seats would presumably be treated the same in all three schemes as far as character and detail are concerned, the only difference being their shape. In each case a back is necessary in order to have some place for the two inscriptions. I myself strongly favor the scheme I have marked "C" with the straight seats because it seems to me that they bear a better relation to the position of the statue. A person sitting on one of these seats could really see the statue from a reasonable angle which is not the case in scheme "D" or "E". I do not like to entirely disregard Mr. Dolge's preference for the exedra or something reminiscent of one, but I cannot help feeling that there is something abortive about the two seats as they are shown in scheme "E".

The pedestal of the statue itself remains unchanged from the design which I showed you at our conference.

I do hope the commission will find one of these schemes to their liking and that I will hear from them soon. If you could put in a word to hurry along the inscriptions, I should appreciate it a great deal."

The Commission agreed to the erection of the statue at the new location, so that the statue will face the east and main avenue, instead of a dead alley and the side wall of the Teatro Nazionale. It was thought best that in view of the expense involved in providing the proposed exedra of stone, it would be sufficient to have a background of planting with seats at the sides of the statue.

The secretary stated that he had been officially informed by the Department of State, through Mr. Charles L. Cooke, that the Department has agreed to the inscription recommended by the Commission of Fine Arts, which

16. HENRY GAY STATUE: Mr. Tolman submitted the following letter received by him from Mr. Harold Steiner, architect, with revised plans for the treatment of the grounds of the Henry Gay Statue, involving another location in the same square:

November 16, 1933.

"I am sending you down prints of sketches I have made for the Gay Memorial. I have shown three slightly different schemes but all of them, as you will see, are for the location we decided upon together. Since they are all on the same center, each scheme necessitates the removing of two trees and the elimination of one of the diagonal paths, but, on the whole, it seems to me that this location for the statue requires very little new landscaping.

The seats would presumably be treated the same in all three schemes as far as character and detail are concerned, the only difference being their shape. In each case a back is necessary in order to have some place for the two inscriptions. I myself strongly favor the scheme I have marked "C" with the straight seats because it seems to me that they bear a better relation to the position of the statue. A person sitting on one of these seats could really see the statue from a reasonable angle which is not the case in scheme "D" or "E". I do not like to entirely disregard Mr. Dolgo's preference for the exedra or something reminiscent of one, but I cannot help feeling that there is something suggestive about the two seats as they are shown in scheme "D".

The pedestal of the statue itself remains unchanged from the design which I showed you at our conference. I do hope the commission will find one of these schemes to their liking and that I will hear from them soon. If you could put in a word to hurry along the inscriptions, I should appreciate it a great deal."

The Commission agreed to the erection of the statue at the new

location, so that the statue will face the east and main avenue, instead of a dead alley and the side wall of the Teatro Nacional. It was thought best that in view of the expense involved in providing the proposed exedra of stone, it would be sufficient to have a background of planting with seats at the sides of the statue.

The secretary stated that he had been officially informed by the Department of State, through Mr. Charles E. Cooke, that the Department has agreed to the inscription recommended by the Commission of Fine Arts, which

reads as follows:

HENRY CLAY
1777 1852
CHAMPION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF AND FRATERNITY AMONG
THE AMERICAN STATES
TO THE UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GIVES THIS STATUE OF ITS ILLUSTRIOUS STATESMAN; SPEAKER OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SENATOR, SECRETARY OF STATE; WHOSE
CONCERN WAS THE HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The inscription is to be cut in Spanish into a granite pedestal with Roman V-cut letters. A translation of the inscription in English can appear on the back of the statue.

The secretary stated further that the Department of State is now considering the question of a new contract to complete the Henry Clay statue. This matter has been brought to the particular attention of Mr. Weinman. (Exhibit J)

14. PLAN FOR THE EAST END OF THE GREAT PLAZA: Under date of November 13, 1929, the following letter addressed to Mr. Moore was received from Mr. E. H. Bennett, Chairman of the Board of Architectural Consultants:

"The Board of Architectural Consultants regrets that you were unable to attend its recent session, having wished as on former occasions to review with you the progress of our work and in particular the important question of the proposed extension to the Government lands and buildings.

Having before us the revised designs of the Department of Justice building and the east end of the Great Plaza, both modified in accordance with the suggestions of the Fine Arts Commission, we wished to show them to you. However, these designs are in Mr. Simon's office and are available in case you desire to see them at such time as may be convenient for you."

The Commission considered the plan very carefully in connection with a blueprint of the project considered by the Commission at the meeting on September 11, 1929. The Commission noted that the pavilions had been changed, but there is still a great pediment in the center, which the Commission regarded out of place, since it was shown to be over arches; whereas, a pediment such as that, the Commission said, should be for an entrance to a great building. The Commission disapproved the plan submitted, and

reads as follows:

THE GREAT BUILDING

1933

COMMISSION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, HAVE HEREUNTO SET THEIR HANDS AND AFFIXED THEIR SEALS, THIS 11TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1933.

The inscription is to be set in Spanish into a granite pedestal

with Roman V-out letters. A translation of the inscription in English can

appear on the back of the statue.

The secretary stated further that the Department of State is now

considering the question of a new contract to complete the Henry Clay statue.

This matter has been brought to the particular attention of Mr. Weisman. (Exhibit 7)

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, UNDER THE

November 13, 1933, the following letter addressed to Mr. Moore was received

from Mr. H. H. Bennett, Chairman of the Board of Architectural Commissioners:

"The Board of Architectural Commissioners regrets that you were

unable to attend its recent session, having wished as on former

occasions to review with you the progress of our work and in

particular the important question of the proposed extension to the

Government lands and buildings.

Having before us the revised designs of the Department of

Justice building and the east end of the Great Plaza, both modified

in accordance with the suggestions of the Fine Arts Commission, we

wished to show them to you. However, these designs are in

Mr. Simon's office and arrangements are being made for you to see them

at such time as may be convenient for you."

The Commission considered the plan very carefully in connection with

a blueprint of the project considered by the Commission at the meeting on

September 11, 1933. The Commission noted that the pavilions had been changed,

but there is still a great pediment in the center, which the Commission

regarded out of place, since it was shown to be over shadows; whereas, a

pediment such as that, the Commission said, should be for an entrance to a

great building. The Commission disapproved the plan submitted, and

recommended the simple treatment of the original design for the east end of the Great Plaza (Exhibit K) (See also K-1)

15. RESTORATION OF THE ARLINGTON MANSION: Under date of November 15, 1929, the following letter was received from Brigadier General L. H. Bash, Assistant Quartermaster General of the War Department, requesting advice of the Commission with regard to problems in connection with the restoration of the Arlington Mansion, as follows:

"The acts of Congress under which we are operating, direct us to restore the Arlington Mansion as nearly as practicable to the condition in which it existed prior to the Civil War, and to procure articles of furniture and equipment which were then in the Mansion and in use by the occupants thereof. It further directs that we procure replicas of furniture and other articles in use in the Mansion, with a view to restoring as far as may be practicable the appearance of the interior.

The work directed is now under way, and the building itself will shortly be restored. With regard to the furnishing, several questions have arisen upon which the advice of your Commission would be appreciated. These are as follows:

In the small detached building, known as the "Slaves' quarters", as seen from the court yard, over each of the three doors there is a small stuccoed panel, about 18" x 30". On each of these panels the late occupant, Mr. Custis, painted a simple design, the center one consisting of a white horse, although much faded and weather worn, is still visible. Over each of the other two doors was a design of a spread eagle, which has become practically invisible. It becomes a question whether, in order to carry out the intent of Congress, we should have these three designs repainted. Your recommendation is requested.

At the rear end of the main hall of the Mansion proper, there is a frieze, consisting of hunting scenes, also painted by Mr. Custis. This also has faded considerably and is rather dirty, although the design is still fairly clear. Your advice is desired as to how this wall painting should be treated. Should it be left as is, should it be cleaned, or should an attempt be made to restore it to its original color and freshness?

As above stated, Mr. Custis was an amateur painter, and as the adopted son of General George Washington, was intimately acquainted with most of the actors in the Revolutionary War. He further obtained most of his information about the battles of the Revolution at first hand. Consequently, although not much of an artist, his historical knowledge was very sound and complete. It is absolutely and positively known that he painted six large battle pictures on canvas, roughly 9' x 5', together with a portrait of George Washington, approximately the same size. We have accurate wood engravings of all of these pictures, together with an explanatory description. I am advised by competent artists that

recommended the same treatment of the original design for the end of

the Great Plains (Exhibit K) (See also K-1)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ARLINGTON MANSION: Under date of November 15, 1922,

the following letter was received from Brigadier General J. H. Bush, Assistant

Quartermaster General of the War Department, representing advice of the Commission

with regard to problems in connection with the restoration of the Arlington

Mansion, as follows:

"The acts of Congress under which we are operating, direct us to restore the Arlington Mansion as nearly as practicable to the condition in which it existed prior to the Civil War, and to procure articles of furniture and equipment which were then in the Mansion and in use by the occupants thereof. It further directs that we procure reproductions of furniture and other articles in use in the Mansion, with a view to restoring as far as may be practicable the appearance of the interior.

The work directed is now under way, and the building itself will shortly be restored. With regard to the furnishing, several questions have arisen upon which the advice of your Commission would be appreciated. These are as follows:

In the small detached building, known as the "Gleaves' quarters", as seen from the court yard, over each of the three doors there is a small stained panel, about 18" x 10". On each of these panels the late occupant, Mr. Gleaves, painted a simple design, the center one consisting of a white rose, although much faded and weather worn, is still visible. Over each of the other two doors was a design of a spread eagle, which has become practically invisible. It becomes a question whether, in order to carry out the intent of Congress, we should have these three designs repainted. Your recommendation is requested.

At the rear end of the main hall of the Mansion proper, there is a triptych, consisting of hunting scenes, also painted by Mr. Gleaves. This also has faded considerably and is rather dirty, although the design is still fairly clear. Your advice is desired as to how this wall painting should be treated. Should it be left as is, should it be cleaned, or should an attempt be made to restore it to its original color and freshness? As above stated, Mr. Gleaves was an amateur painter, and as the adopted son of General George Washington, was intimately acquainted with most of the actors in the Revolutionary War. He further obtained most of his information about the battles of the Revolution at first hand. Consequently, although not much of an artist, his historical knowledge was very sound and complete. It is especially and positively known that he painted six large battle pictures on canvas, roughly 24' x 36', together with a portrait of George Washington, approximately the same size. We have accurate wood engravings of all of these pictures, together with an explanatory description. I am advised by competent artists that

these are in sufficient detail to permit of quite accurate reproductions. The question arises as to whether it would be advisable to have these reproductions made and the results placed on the walls. This course would be of probable historical accuracy, but it might possibly result in these pictures constituting the focus of interest when the building is completed and thrown open to the public. This matter will be further discussed when the opportunity arises for a conference with the Commission at your next meeting, which I understand is to be held on the morning of the 18th instant."

The Commission inspected the Mansion and the grounds in company with General Bash, who pointed out the panels referred to in the letter. Mr. Winter made a special inspection of the panels and noted that the figure of the horse (on one panel) and eagle (on each of the other two) were without background though they can be painted. The hunting scenes in the Mansion, Mr. Winter said, should simply be cleaned as they doubtless will retain their color.

General Bash said mantels of the kind at Woodlawn are being placed in the Mansion, and certain new ones were being ordered from Italy. The old garden on the north side of the Mansion is to be restored, in place of the existing greenhouse; also a brick walk is to be placed on the east side of the Mansion. Also there is to be additional planting. Mr. Moore said he hoped the east slope of the Mansion can be restored to its original state. This would require moving the L'Enfant Tomb--to a proposed site to the south side of the Mansion. Mr. Greenleaf suggested this several years ago.

A report was sent to General Bash, embodying the recommendations of the Commission (Exhibit L). A copy thereof was sent to Representative Cramton.

16. UNITED MASONIC TEMPLE: Under date of October 30th, Mr. Harvey Wiley Corbett requested advice as to the action taken as a result of the meeting on October 18, 1929, of the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, with reference to the construction of the

There are in sufficient detail to permit of quite accurate reproduction. The question arises as to whether it would be advisable to have these reproductions made and the results placed on the walls. This course would be of probable historical accuracy, but it might possibly result in these pictures constituting the focus of interest when the building is completed and shown open to the public. This matter will be further discussed when the opportunity arises for a conference with the Commission at your next meeting, which I understand is to be held on the morning of the 18th instant."

The Commission inspected the Mansion and the grounds in company with General Baugh, who pointed out the panels referred to in the letter. Mr. Winter made a special inspection of the panels and noted that the figure of the horse (on one panel) and eagle (on each of the other two) were without background, though they can be painted. The painting scenes in the Mansion, Mr. Winter said, should simply be cleaned as they doubtless will retain their color. General Baugh said panels of the kind at Woodlawn are being placed in the Mansion, and certain new ones were being ordered from Italy. The old garden on the north side of the Mansion is to be restored, in place of the existing greenhouse; also a brick walk is to be placed on the east side of the Mansion. Also there is to be additional planting. Mr. Moore said he hoped the east slope of the Mansion can be restored to its original state. This would require moving the L'Enfant Tomb--to a proposed site to the south side of the Mansion. Mr. Greenleaf suggested this several years ago.

A report was sent to General Baugh, embodying the recommendations of the Commission on (Exhibit 1). A copy thereof was sent to Representative Cranton.

16. UNITED STATES SENATE: Under date of October 30th, Mr. Harvey Wiley Corbett requested advice as to the action taken as a result of the meeting on October 18, 1932, of the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, with reference to the construction of the

United Masonic Temple, by letter as follows:

"Has any action been taken by The Commission of Fine Arts and The Park and Planning Commission in regard to Temple Heights?

My Building Committee is naturally pressing me for some result of the conference held on Friday, October 18. I would deeply appreciate any information you can give me in connection with this matter."

The Commission took the matter under special consideration, with a view to sending a reply to Mr. Corbett at an early date. (Exhibit M)

Colonel Grant said so far as the National Capital Park and Planning Commission is concerned, they understood Mr. Corbett would make further studies of the design, so as to make unnecessary a change in the Zoning Regulations pertaining to the Dean Tract. The Commission felt the Dean Tract should not be commercialized by the erection of apartment houses on part of it, if it is decided to build the United Masonic Temple there, with a proper landscape setting.

17. FORT HUMPHREYS, BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Because of the inspection of the Arlington Mansion and other projects that required attention, the Commission postponed the proposed inspection of buildings and grounds at Fort Humphreys until the next meeting, which is to be held December 12th. At this meeting also particular attention will be given to the selection of sculptors for the Arlington Memorial Bridge

The Commission had dinner at the Carlton Hotel and afterwards considered a number of pending projects. The Commission adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

The Commission had as their guests at luncheon Col. Grant, Major Mehaffey, Mr. Olmsted, Dr. Kelly.

United Masonic Temple, by letter as follows:

"Has any action been taken by the Commission of the Arts and the Park and Planning Commission in regard to Temple Heights?"

My Building Committee is naturally pressing me for some result of the conference held on Friday, October 18. I would deeply appreciate any information you can give me in connection with this matter."

The Commission took the matter under special consideration, with a

view to sending a reply to Mr. Corbett at an early date. (Exhibit 11)

Colonel Grant said so far as the National Capital Park and Planning

Commission is concerned, they understood Mr. Corbett would make further studies

of the design, so as to make unnecessary a change in the zoning regulations

pertaining to the Dean Acheson. The Commission felt the Dean Acheson should not

be commercialized by the erection of apartment houses on part of it, if it is

decided to build the United Masonic Temple there, with a proper landscape setting.

IV. FORT HUMPHREYS, BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Because of the inspection of the

Arlington Memorial and other projects that required attention, the Commission

postponed the proposed inspection of buildings and grounds at Fort Humphreys until

the next meeting, which is to be held December 1st. At this meeting also particular

attention will be given to the selection of architects for the Arlington Memorial Bridge

The Commission had dinner at the Carlton Hotel and afterwards considered a number of pending projects. The Commission adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

The Commission had as their guests at luncheon Col. Grant, Major Mahaffey, Mr. Olmsted, Dr. Kelly.

COPY

November 20, 1929.

Sir:

In accordance with your request of September 9, 1929, the Commission of Fine Arts have taken up the matter of selecting a sculptor to execute a statue of Leif Ericsson, to be erected in Iceland.

The Commission received communications from several sculptors of Icelandic derivation, together with many letters from members of Congress supporting one or the other of these sculptors. One of them was not an American citizen, and therefore was ineligible under the terms of your letter. The second was a young man of ability and promise. The sculptor and painter member of the Commission made a very careful examination of his work in his studio and came to the firm conclusion that in his present state of development he was incapable of producing a statue that would be representative of American sculpture. His work at present is immature. Other sculptors claiming preference by reason of nationality were each and all found to be below the standard which the United States should set for a gift of American sculpture to Iceland. The Commission felt the more concerned about this from the fact that Iceland has a sculptor of very distinguished merit in Einar Jonsson, whose work both at home and in this country challenged the best work of American sculpture today.

The Commission of Fine Arts accordingly called upon fourteen American sculptors to submit photographs of their executed work. These photographs were most illuminating and the Commission had before them as a basis for their judgment upwards of 100 photographs representative of the best work recently done in this country. After very careful consideration, and in view of all the circumstances as outlined above, the Commission recommend that Mr. A. Stirling Calder, Sculptor, 11 East 14th Street, New York City, be commissioned to execute the statue of Leif Ericsson, to be presented by the United States to Iceland.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A

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November 20, 1929.

Sir:

The revised models submitted for the Soldiers Medal, with your letter of November 1st, were carefully considered by the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 18, 1929.

The Commission are unanimously of the opinion that the execution of a medal according to the designs submitted would result in an inferior medal, not worthy of the Government of the United States. The models lack distinction and are unsatisfactory as regards workmanship.

The designing of a Soldiers Medal should employ the imagination and the skill of a medallist of distinction. It is possible to secure a good design and good workmanship provided the method suggested by the Commission of Fine Arts in their letter of April 29, 1929, shall be followed. The Commission, therefore, recommend action in accordance with that letter.

The models submitted are disapproved. They are herewith returned, together with the designs.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

The Honorable

The Secretary of War,

Washington, D. C.

Exhibit B

1911, 10/10/1911

1911

My dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the matter of the proposed extension of the term of office of the members of the Board of Directors of the National Bank of Commerce, and in reply to inform you that the same has been referred to the Board of Directors for their consideration. I am, however, unable to say at this time whether or not the same will be granted, as the Board has not yet met to consider the same. I am, however, sure that the Board will take into consideration the interests of the stockholders and the public in this matter, and will make a decision which is just and equitable. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours truly,
J. H. [Name]
President, National Bank of Commerce

Very truly,
J. H. [Name]

Very truly,
J. H. [Name]
[Signature]

Very truly,
J. H. [Name]
[Signature]

INTRA-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC PARKS

FROM: Chief, Engineering Division.

November 7, 1929.

TO: Director.

SUBJECT: Exposure of part of cut, Meridian Hill Park.

1. The project for exposing a cross section of the bluff on the 16th Street side of Meridian Hill Park, as proposed by the Geological Survey and Dr. Merriam, is a very interesting one, but its execution presents many difficulties. The contract has been let for the construction of the retaining wall outside this bluff, steel has been ordered for the wall, excavation has been completed for the footings, etc., so that it would be impracticable to change the design at this time. And even if it could be changed without completely upsetting the construction plans, I doubt whether the change could be made so as to harmonize with the architectural plan for this part of the park, as such a change would affect not only the appearance of the wall, but also the proposed arrangement of the top of the Grand Terrace.

2. Furthermore, the excavation for the wall footings has carried the foot of slope eastward to a distance of at least 20 feet from the back of the wall, so that auxiliary retaining walls almost as high as the main wall will have to be carried back to the undisturbed surface, forming a long and narrow passage and further disarranging the layout of the top of the terrace. And finally, the slope cannot be expected to maintain itself permanently even if it is protected from direct rainfall and wash, and would to a considerable extent spoil the effect desired by the geologists.

3. In my opinion, the only possible solution of the problem would be to go ahead with the wall as now designed, and to investigate the feasibility of constructing a narrow well back of the wall with panels of some sort which would permit practically all of the cross section of earth to be viewed, and to which access would be had by means of a ladder. Whether panels of glass, wire netting, or some other material, would be most satisfactory, would have to be determined by study and experiment. I realize that this solution would not meet the wishes of the geologists, particularly because the general public would not be attracted to the exhibit, but I don't see that anything else can be done in view of the present status of the design and construction work in the park.

EXHIBIT C.

JCM:AA

J. C. Mehaffey.

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 5, 1929.

Colonel U. S. Grant, III, Director,
Office of Public Buildings and Grounds,
Armations Building,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Colonel Grant:

I am transmitting herewith a letter to you from the Acting Director of the U. S. Geological Survey which has been forwarded to me to transmit to you. I say that the project presented is one of great scientific and popular interest. The geological story, and the history of life represented in the section of Morrison Hill, is known widely in America and Europe. I first came to know the section as a student in a German university in the early nineties.

It is, of course, difficult to determine what can be preserved and what the relative values are of these localities. I have not much doubt that one hundred years from now this section, even if covered up, may be better known through the world than the artificial development which may screen it from public view.

I do not know that this may add to interpretation of the value of the locality, but I ought to say that this locality has served as the central feature in an article, which you probably by this time think of as mythical. I described this bluff and its story in a part of an article entitled "What I see from my window." It was immediately in view from my living room in the apartment which we occupied for some years at 2400 Sixteenth Street. The paper has not been published, but it is on its way, and the first of the series will come to the public in January.

With kind wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

John D. Durrant

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant, 3d, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks,
Washington, D. C.

100-4-100

My dear Colonel Grant:

I take pleasure in submitting for your consideration a suggestion made by a committee of geologists of the Geological Survey:

"For many years the cut on 16th Street, just above Florida Avenue, has been a feature of great interest to geologists. It illustrates very plainly several important episodes in the geologic development of the region and shows two of the formations with unconformity at their contact. Now that it is planned to cover the remaining portion of this exposure by a wall, I request that consideration be given to a proposal to leave a portion of the exposure bare so that it will remain visible for future observation. It is believed that this can be done without objectionable change to existing plans by use of some such device as that embodied in the accompanying sketch. This is in line with the recommendations of a Committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science that exposures of this sort in Public Parks be preserved for educational service."

This suggestion has my hearty indorsement and I hope you may find its adoption possible.

Cordially yours,

Julian A. Sears
Acting Director.

November 20, 1939.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 16, 1939, considered the sketch submitted with your communication of November 7th, which suggests exposing a cross-section of the bluff on the Sixteenth Street side of Meridian Hill Park, as proposed by the Geological Survey, and by Dr. John C. Merriam, President of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

The Commission of Fine Arts regret that when the original designs for the development of Meridian Hill Park were prepared attention was not called to the geological features of the strata composing the hill. Had attention been called to it at any time during the decade when the plans were under consideration an earnest endeavor would have been made to meet the views of the scientists in regard to the visibility of the geological formation. Unfortunately, however, the Grand Terrace, which forms the chief feature of Meridian Hill Park, is now under construction, and such a treatment as is proposed by the scientists would interfere seriously with the park features. The Commission of Fine Arts, therefore, with regret at not being able to meet the hopes of the scientists, cannot recommend any change in the established plans. The sketch is herewith returned.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital,
Washington, D.C.

Very respectfully, yours,
Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Exhibit C-1

COPY

November 19, 1929.

Dear Colonel Grant:

With reference to the design submitted by you in behalf of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, at the meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on November 16, 1929, for a boundary channel bridge at the north end of Columbia Island, to connect with the Virginia shore, the Commission are of the opinion that this bridge, being subordinate to the Memorial Bridge, it should be much simpler in design. The Commission recommend that the architects prepare a design for a bridge to be built of brick at this location. A very plain bridge, simply for the purpose of crossing the channel, should be adequate.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 5d,
Executive and Recording Officer,
Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D

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JOEY

November 19, 1929.

Dear Colonel Grant:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 18, 1929, considered a report submitted by Mr. Vitale as to the studies of the Mall Development, which he had made with Mr. Eliot and Mr. Eliot. The Commission approve the report and the plans as far as they have been presented. A copy of the report is attached hereto.

The Commission of Fine Arts would be pleased to see grading on the Mall begun at the earliest opportunity, and the Mall Plan carried out by the construction of at least one roadway for the present from the Capitol to the Washington Monument. This, as you know, would merely mean completing a part of a roadway in the Mall that has been built according to the Mall Plan.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant Ed, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit B

77-111
November 18, 1929.

MEMORANDUM to Colonel Grant:

I submit the following conclusions in regard to the Department of Agriculture section of the Mall reached jointly by Mr. Vitale and myself:

1. Any permanent grading or planting in the Mall in connection with the new Department of Agriculture building, and extending at all to the north of the south road of the Mall, involves a definite and practically irrevocable commitment to one of the alternative general plans for the grading of the westerly part of the Mall, between which no acceptable compromise is possible:

(a) The alternative assumed by the Commission of 1901, which would permit the permanent completion of all the Mall drives and grading and planting without changes in the grades of 12th and 14th Streets, but would permanently preclude the separation of grades of 12th and 14th Streets from the Mall roads and would accept an amount of cross slope in this section of the Mall and a dip in the profiles of the north side of the Mall, which have always been recognized to be undesirable; and

(b) The alternative recently adopted in principle by the Park and Planning Commission, which would permit either the separation of grades by a moderate depression of 12th and 14th Streets or grade crossings of those streets by a moderate elevation of their profiles but would not permit the Mall roads (other than the south road) to be completed until 12th and 14th Streets are regraded. *at satisfactory permanent grades*

2. Any extension of the grading, permanent planting and other improvements of the Mall to the north of the south road at this time will involve in a large measure the objections and criticisms sure to be raised by a wholesale destruction of existing trees, and it is the definite and positive opinion of Mr. Vitale and myself, after reviewing the conditions carefully again on the ground with Mr. Eliot - 1st, that the Commission was right in adopting the bolder alternative B, above stated; 2d, that if any permanent work is to be done in accordance with this decision, at this time, to the north of the south road, it would be better to extend the grading and planting in complete final form as far as the north road of the Mall rather than to stop at the south vista road and leave the rest in its present condition; 3d, that it would be best at this time, when a large amount of filling material must be disposed of and extensive and radical changes must be made in the grounds of the Department of Agriculture in any case, to complete the grading in accordance with the alternative B already adopted by the Park and Planning Commission as far north as the north road of the Mall, but leaving a comparatively narrow belt of trees

undisturbed along 13th and 14th Streets until such time as the grades of those streets can be readjusted; 4th, that a careful selection should be made of those trees within the area to be regraded which are worth moving, and that these trees should be moved, some or all of them to be used in accordance with a carefully studied plan of landscape treatment for the immediate surroundings of the Department of Agriculture south of the south road of the Mall.

Frederick Law Olmsted

I concur in the above.

Ferruccio Vitale.

file/nd



copy

November 19, 1929.

Dear Colonel Grant:

Your letter of November 4th, recommending the installation of double light lamp standards in front of the Union Station, received consideration by the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on November 18, 1929.

The Commission of Fine Arts approve the suggestion, it being understood that the officials of the Washington Terminal Company favor the project. The Commission took up the matter with the architects of the Union Station (Graham, Anderson, Probst and White, Chicago, Ills., successors to the W. H. Burnham Company), who approve the erection of these double light lamp posts, provided the Terminal Company are consulted and approve of their installation.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant 3d, Director,
Public Buildings and Public Parks
of the National Capital,
Washington, D. C.

Exhibit F

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

November 15, 1929

Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Secretary,
The Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Caemmerer:

I have your letter of the 14th with reference to the Sun Oil Company proposition on the Virginia shore near Key Bridge. I am very glad, indeed, to note the action that has been taken by the Commission on Fine Arts. This matter has been called to my attention by others and under date of November 13 I sent the enclosed letter to Major Somervell. I hope the issuance of the permit can be stopped. I intend to keep in touch with it and will be glad to do anything that I can to that end.

Yours sincerely,

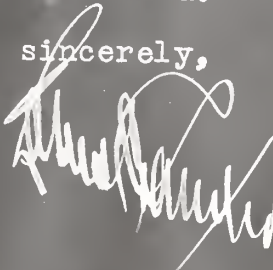


EXHIBIT 5



November 13, 1929

Major Brehon B. Somervell,
United States Engineer Office,
Room 1068 New Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Major Somervell:

With reference to pending application of the Sun Oil Company for a permit in connection with the proposed erection of a pier in the Potomac River in Arlington County, Virginia: I hope that this application will not be approved. The government has under serious consideration a program of development of the banks of the Potomac in connection with and as set forth in H.R.26, proposing the acquisition, establishment and development of the George Washington Memorial Parkway along the Potomac from Mount Vernon to the Great Falls. This proposed legislation passed the House unanimously in the last Congress and reached the Senate too late for effective action. I expect favorable action upon the legislation at this session. It would seem, therefore, not to be desirable for the government in any way to cooperate in encumbering the water front with unsightly structures which would later have to be condemned and removed.

Furthermore, the land where the Sun Oil Company proposes to erect this pier is not the property of the Sun Oil Company but is the property of the United States. While it will no doubt be urged that the Sun Oil Company is not asking your office to give them a permit to erect the structure but is only asking you to state that your Department has no objection so far as the interests of navigation are concerned, it would seem that an applicant seeking action by your office should, the question being raised, be required to show his legal right in the premises and to demonstrate that he is the owner of the property and has a legal right to erect the structure which is proposed. I trust that in view of the conditions a favorable report upon this application will not be made by your office.

Thanking you for your consideration, I am

Yours sincerely,
Louis C. Cramton

COPY

November 19, 1929.

Dear Major Somervell:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 18, 1929, gave very careful consideration to a protest received against the erection of oil tanks and a wharf by the Sun Oil Company, at Rosslyn, Virginia, about 400 yards above the Key Bridge. These oil tanks and wharf would be unsightly to a high degree and dominate large areas. The wharf would interfere greatly with plans for the development of Rosslyn as an approach to the National Capital; it would also interfere with the development of the Virginia Shore Parkway, which will pass through Rosslyn and will ultimately be extended to Great Falls. The Virginia Shore Parkway is now being developed between the Highway Bridge and the Key Bridge, and an underpass arch is being built for it as part of the Boundary Channel Bridge, in connection with the construction of the Arlington Memorial Bridge.

For several years the Washington Gas Light Company have desired to enlarge their plant by the erection of additional gas tanks. They intended to build on Analoestan Island, but refrained from doing so because they would be an "eye-sore" to the National Capital at that location. The same spirit of cooperation should be manifested by the Sun Oil Company. The Commission of Fine Arts strongly protest against the erection of the oil tanks and wharf as proposed. For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Major Brehon B. Somervell,
Engineer in Charge of
Washington work,
Washington, D.C.

Charles Moore,
Chairman.

EXHIBIT G-1

November 19, 1932

Dear Major Somerville:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 16, 1932, gave very careful consideration to a protest received against the erection of oil tanks and a wharf by the Sun Oil Company, at Rosalyn, Virginia, about 400 yards above the Key Bridge. These oil tanks and wharf would be unsightly to a high degree and dominate large areas. The wharf would interfere greatly with plans for the development of Rosalyn as an approach to the National Capital; it would also interfere with the development of the Virginia Shore Parkway, which will pass through Rosalyn and will ultimately be extended to Great Falls. The Virginia Shore Parkway is now being developed between the Highway Bridge and the Key Bridge, and an underpass arch is being built for it as part of the Boundary Channel Bridge, in connection with the construction of the Arlington Memorial Bridge. For several years the Washington Gas Light Company have desired to enlarge their plant by the erection of additional gas tanks. They intended to build on Appalostan Island, but refrained from doing so because they would be an "eye-sore" to the National Capital at that location. The same spirit of cooperation should be manifested by the Sun Oil Company. The Commission of Fine Arts strongly protest against the erection of the oil tanks and wharf as proposed. For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,
Chairman.

RECEIVED G-1

Major Breton B. Somerville,
Engineer in Charge of
Washington work,
Washington, D.C.

Extract from record of meeting of National Capital Park and Planning Commission held on November 15-16, 1929, regarding location of proposed Pharmaceutical building on Square 63:

Col. Grant: I move Mr. Olmsted's suggestions be approved by this Commission and the necessary legislation recommended, provided it is found impossible to purchase the entire square. It leaves it in such a way that if the Treasury Department recommends purchase of the entire square, it will not be in conflict with it.

Mr. Albright: I second that.

MOTION unanimously carried approving the following suggestions submitted by Mr. Olmsted, for location of the proposed Pharmaceutical Building on Square 63:

EXHIBIT H.

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS.
WASHINGTON, D. C.
NOV 13 1929
NOTED-----

1. The Association's comments on program for September meeting:

Pharmaceutical Building:

Requested following possibilities:

a. Relocation of Water St. in block 62 with north building line parallel to S. W. on line with National Academy of Science building. This relocation would deprive the park of a triangular piece of ground in exchange for which (1) the street could take a portion of Lot 800, and (2) the Association could dedicate an easement over lots 7, 16, 17, 18 and 19 and a portion of the former street fronting on 23d Street. This easement could provide that this area shall either become park property, or provide restrictions as to its use and buildings on it.

b. A cash payment for the land received from Water Street by the Association approximately equal to fair value of lots 16, 17, 801 and 802, with the proviso that such cash payment might be waived by some executive authority upon receipt by the Government in place thereof of easement or rights over the said lots and over lot 800.

c. That this relocation of the street could leave the owners of lots 16, 17, 18, 801-802 better off than at present since their frontage on Water St. would be square instead of skew. They would therefore have no kick. At the same time straightening the street would allow the Pharmaceutical Association to proceed with their building as designed. The straightening, therefore, removes the possibility of hold-up on the part of the owners of the lots at the eastern side of the square. If the western side of the square were dedicated for park purposes and cash on hand, the Commission might be justified in proceeding to condemnation of the lots on the east side to balance the park area.

American Pharmaceutical Association

ORGANIZED 1852 INCORPORATED 1888

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION—1929-1930

President, H. A. B. DUNNING
Charles and Chase Sts., Baltimore, Md.
Vice-President, E. V. ZOELLER
Garboro, N. C.
Vice-President, A. L. I. WINNE
12 State Office Bldg, Richmond, Va.
and Vice-President, W. B. GOODYEAR
930 Derry St., Harrisburg, Pa.

Secretary, E. F. KELLY
10 W. Chase St., Baltimore, Md.
Treasurer, C. W. HOLTON
Box 81, Essex Fells, N. J.
Editor of the Year Book, A. G. DUMEX
Lombard and Greene Sts., Baltimore, Md.
Editor of the Journal, E. G. ESERLE
10 W. Chase St., Baltimore, Md.

Chairman of the Council, S. L. HILTON
1033 22nd St., N. W., Washington, D. C.
Vice-Chairman of the Council, CHARLES H. LA WALL
636 So. Franklin Square, Philadelphia, Pa.
Chairman House of Delegates, R. L. SPAIN
2411 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Md.
Vice-Chairman House of Delegates, C. D. JORDON
Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.

Mr. Charles Moore,
c/o Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

November 21, 1929.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I am enclosing the advertisement of the Century Company which appeared in the New York Times Book Review of November 17th and which, as you will note, lists your recent book "Washington Past and Present".

I have discussed with Dr. Dunning the results of our conference on Monday and we deeply appreciate the interest which the Parks and Planning Commission and the Fine Arts Commission are taking in working out our problem. We are particularly interested in the second proposition, that is to purchase the entire square. As I understood it, the Parks and Planning Commission will prepare bills embodying both suggestions and will advise us as soon as these are completed.

May I thank you again for the courtesies extended on Monday.

Very truly yours,

E. F. Kelly

Secretary.

K/E

EXHIBIT I

COPY

November 19, 1929.

Dear Mr. Weinman:

The Legal Division of the Department of State informed us today, orally, that Mrs. Quinn has been paid the \$10,000 (in addition to \$5,000 paid to Mr. Quinn) claimed to be due the Estate for completing the one-third size model, and that therefore there is no necessity for appointing a special committee to decide on completing the monument of Henry Clay,--in other words, Mrs. Quinn has been paid in full and it is now necessary for the Department of State to enter into a contract with another sculptor to complete the monument. The Department will ask the Commission of Fine Arts to name such a sculptor, and our understanding is that you recommend Francis H. Packer, of Rockville Center, Long Island, New York, for this work. The question arises whether he will carry out the remainder of the work in producing the monument for \$20,000 (the balance of the \$35,000 contracted for by Mr. Quinn). This involves making the full-size model, casting the figure in bronze, providing the pedestal and shipment to Venezuela, together with the erection of the monument. Would you please write as to this matter? Under the contract Mrs. Quinn pays the architect for services rendered to the time of Mr. Quinn's death. If Mr. Packer refuses to do the balance of the work for \$20,000, would Piccirilli's do it?

Cordially yours,
Charles Moore.

A. A. Weinman, Esq.,
Forest Hill, L. I.,
New York.

EXHIBIT J

November 19, 1929.

Dear Mrs. Quinn:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 18, 1929, gave consideration to the Henry Clay statue. The Commission expects to hear from the Department of State in a few days in the matter of completing the statue, whereupon we will communicate with you further.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,
Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mrs. Edmond T. Quinn,
207 East 61st Street,
New York, N.Y.

November 12, 1922.

Dear Mr. Weinman:

The Legal Division of the Department of State informed us orally, that Mrs. Quinn has been paid the \$10,000 (in addition to \$5,000 paid to Mr. Quinn) claimed to be due the State for completing the one-third size model, and that therefore there is no necessity for appointing a special committee to decide on completing the monument of Henry Clay. In other words, Mrs. Quinn has been paid in full and it is now necessary for the Department of State to enter into a contract with another sculptor to complete the monument. The Department will ask the Commission of Fine Arts to name such a sculptor, and our understanding is that you recommend Francis H. Parker, of Rockville Center, Long Island, New York, for this work. The question arises whether he will carry out the remainder of the work in producing the monument for \$20,000 (the balance of the \$30,000 contracted for by Mr. Quinn). This involves making the full-size model, casting the figure in bronze, providing the pedestal and shipment to Venezuela, together with the erection of the monument. Would you please write as to this matter? Under the contract Mrs. Quinn pays the sculptor for services rendered to the time of Mr. Quinn's death. If Mr. Parker refuses to do the balance of the work for \$20,000, would Rockwell's do it?

Cordially yours,
Charles Moore.

A. A. Weinman, Esq.,
Forest Hill, P. O.,
New York.

ENCLOSURE

November 12, 1922.

Dear Mrs. Quinn:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 12, 1922, gave consideration to the Henry Clay statue. The Commission expects to hear from the Department of State in a few days in the matter of completing the statue, whereupon we will communicate with you further.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:
Very respectfully, yours,
Charles Moore,
Chairman.

Mrs. Raymond E. Quinn,
307 West 42nd Street,
New York, N. Y.

COPY

November 20, 1929.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 18, 1929, considered the revised design submitted for the treatment of the east end of the Great Plaza, opposite the Department of Commerce Building, in the Triangle.

You will recall that the Commission expressed a clear and distinct recommendation in favor of the simple treatment of the eastern end of the Plaza, as shown in the designs before the Commission at the meeting on September 11, 1929. The Commission then said that, if the Board of Architectural Consultants still desired a more ornate treatment of that end of the Plaza, the Commission would consider a revised scheme of a pediment. The revised scheme presented with your letter of November 13th has been examined with great care and it is the unanimous opinion of the Commission of Fine Arts that it is not a satisfactory solution of the problem. The Commission advise, therefore, a return to the simple treatment and the development thereof.

One of the considerations was the fact that the building itself is designed to house the Independent Offices, clearly subordinate activities of the Government. The building designed would lead one to expect ~~it~~ it to be one of the great Departments of the Government, and even then the treatment seems over elaborate. In some respects the changes that have been made in the design rather detract, notably in the flanking pavilions, which are not as satisfactory as in the original design, although the center has been modified. The Commission, therefore, found the design as submitted unsatisfactory and disapprove it.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. E. H. Bennett, Chairman,
Board of Architectural Consultants,
Office of the Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit K

November 20, 1933

Dear Mr. Bennett:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 13, 1933, considered the revised design submitted for the treatment of the east end of the Great Plaza, opposite the Department of Commerce Building, in the Triangle.

You will recall that the Commission expressed a clear and distinct recommendation in favor of the simple treatment of the eastern end of the Plaza, as shown in the designs before the Commission at the meeting on September 11, 1933. The Commission then said that, in the Board of Architectural Consultants still desired a more ornate treatment of that end of the Plaza, the Commission would consider a revised scheme of a pediment. The revised scheme presented with your letter of November 13th has been examined with great care and it is the unanimous opinion of the Commission of Fine Arts that it is not a satisfactory solution of the problem. The Commission advises, therefore, a return to the simple treatment and the development thereof.

One of the considerations was the fact that the building itself is designed to house the Independent Office, clearly subordinate activities of the Government. The building designed would lead one to expect that it to be one of the great Departments of the Government, and even then the treatment seems over elaborate. In some respects the changes that have been made in the design rather detract, notably in the flanking pavilions, which are not as satisfactory as in the original design, although the center has been modified. The Commission, therefore, found the design as submitted unsatisfactory and disapprove it.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. B. H. Bennett, Chairman,
Board of Architectural Consultants,
Office of the Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibit II



ASSISTANT SECRETARY

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON

November 25, 1929

RECEIVED
THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
NOV 26 1929
NOTED

Mr. Charles Moore,
Chairman, Commission of Fine Arts,
Interior Department Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moore:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, enclosing copy of a letter to Mr. Bennett. I presume that Mr. Bennett has replied to your letter and he may have told you that as matters now stand the building which might have been used to house independent establishments will now be used by the Postoffice Department. This may alter somewhat your criticism of the treatment given this particular building.

Yours very sincerely,

FERRY K. HEATH,
Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

EXHIBIT K. -1



COPY

November 19, 1929.

Dear Colonel Bash:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting yesterday, were pleased to consider the recommendations made in your letter of November 15th, with reference to the restoration of the Arlington Mansion, and to inspect the work with you on the grounds.

The question of preserving the panels painted by Mr. Custis, over the doors of the "slaves Quarter", and the hunting scenes at the rear end of the main hall of the Mansion, was brought to the particular attention of the painter member of the Commission, Mr. Ezra Winter. The Commission concur in his recommendation that the panels be re-painted but that the hunting scenes be cleaned only, by a careful process.

The Commission do not favor the reproduction of the Revolutionary Battle scenes mentioned in your letter, since the originals are not available.

The Commission were pleased to note the progress made in restoring the Arlington Mansion. The Commission concur with you in proposing: to restore the old garden to the north of the Mansion, in place of the greenhouse; to place a brick walk along the east side of the Mansion; to remove unsightly signs that are now in and about the Mansion.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Brigadier General L. H. Bash, Q. M. C.,
Assistant Quartermaster General,
War Department,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT L

November 19, 1922.

Dear Colonel Bash:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting yesterday, were pleased to consider the recommendations made in your letter of November 15th, with reference to the restoration of the Arlington Mansion, and to inspect the work with you on the grounds.

The question of preserving the panels painted by Mr. Galt, over the doors of the "Elves Grotto", and the hunting scenes at the rear end of the main hall of the Mansion, was brought to the particular attention of the painter member of the Commission, Mr. Ezra Winter. The Commission concurs in his recommendation that the panels be re-painted but that the hunting scenes be cleaned only, by a careful process.

The Commission do not favor the reproduction of the Revolutionary Battle scenes mentioned in your letter, since the originals are not available.

The Commission were pleased to note the progress made in restoring the Arlington Mansion. The Commission concurs with you in proposing: to restore the old garden to the north of the Mansion, in place of the greenhouse; to place a brick walk along the east side of the Mansion; to remove unsightly signs that are now in and about the Mansion.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Brigadier General L. H. Bash, U. S. A.,
Assistant Quartermaster General,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT 1

COPY

November 30, 1929.

Dear Mr. Corbett:

In regard to the Dean Tract proposition: As you have so often said, the Commission of Fine Arts really has no jurisdiction in the matter, the property being privately owned and subject to development under the District of Columbia authorities. The only question before the Commission of Fine Arts is as to whether the Commission would recommend to the Zoning Commission and to Congress a change in the Zoning Regulations to permit an additional height in the building on a portion of the land. On the basis of those sketches originally submitted by you, the Commission was ready to make such a recommendation. The additional sketches called the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts to certain considerations as to the form of the central building, which were not apparent in the first sketches. The Commission of Fine Arts were therefore concerned, as the National Capital Park and Planning Commission had already been concerned, with the design of the central feature, and you have made modifications which would seem to remove the objection of similarity to the Lincoln Memorial.

At the same time you have shown the proposed development along Florida Avenue and also along Columbia Road to call for a series of apartment houses. This was exactly the thing ~~in~~ which the Commission in redrafting the bill prepared by you sought to prevent. The Commission hoped that the whole tract would be developed in a monumental character by the Masonic Fraternity, just as Meridian Hill Park is being developed as an entity. The combined uses to which the land is to be put, according to your sketches, is doubtless clearly within the rights of the owners, and while the monumental features commend themselves to the Commission, the commercial features do not. The Commission therefore would prefer to leave matters to such decision as the owners may reach in regard thereto.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Harvey Wiley Corbett,
130 West 42d Street,
New York, N.Y.

Exhibit M

November 25, 1920

Dear Mr. Corbett:

In regard to the Dean Trust proposition: As you have a better idea of the Commission of Fine Arts really has no jurisdiction in the matter, the property being privately owned and subject to development under the District of Columbia authorities. The only question before the Commission of Fine Arts is as to whether the Commission would recommend to the Planning Commission and to Congress a change in the zoning regulations to permit an additional height in the building on a portion of the land, on the basis of those sketches originally submitted by you. The Commission was ready to make such a recommendation. The additional sketches called the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts to certain considerations as to the form of the central building, which were not apparent in the first sketches. The Commission of Fine Arts were therefore concerned, as the National Capital Park and Planning Commission had already been concerned with the design of the central feature, and you have made modifications which would seem to remove the objection of similarity to the Lincoln Memorial.

At the same time you have shown the proposed development along Florida Avenue and also along Columbia Road to call for a series of apartment houses. This was exactly the thing which the Commission in rejecting the bill prepared by you sought to prevent. The Commission hoped that the whole tract would be developed in a monumental character by the Masonic Fraternity, just as Memorial Hill Park is being developed as an entity. The combined uses to which the land is to be put, according to your sketches, is doubtless clearly within the rights of the owners, and while the monumental features concern themselves to the Commission, the commercial features do not. The Commission therefore would prefer to leave matters to such decision as the owners may reach in regard thereto.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. Harvey Wiley Corbett,
130 West 42nd Street,
New York, N. Y.

Exhibit B